# SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — January 24, 1972

No 132

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION


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*editorial*

# US Fresh Crime: Mass Deportation

*A large-scale mass deportation of Northern Quang Tri population has been carried out frenziedly by Washington and Saigon. On January 9, 1972, some 1,500 peasants of that area were flown forcibly to Ba Ria region, Eastern Nam Bo. The transfer was made by American airplanes and backed by the CIA. This was the "opening stage of a big relocation program," as acknowledged by the provincial governor of Quang Tri. After the Tet, each flight will transport about 1,500 persons to Southernmost Trung Bo and Eastern Nam Bo.*

*Since long the US and its Saigon flunkeys have been planning the deportation of from 2 to 3 million people from the Northern part of South Viet Nam to the High Plateaux, Southerntip Trung Bo and Eastern Nam Bo. The* New York Times *in its January 11, 1971 issue also reported that this enormous measure had been agreed and paid by Washington. Saigon State Secretary Phan Quang Dan was in charge of a committee for the execution of the plan. Previously, as an experimentation, two thousand families in Gio An and Gio Son villages, Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province, were transferred to Ba To, Xuyen Moc district, Phuoc Tuy province, the South Viet Nam Committee for the Denunciation of US War Crimes in its communiqué of October 1971 denounced. The recent deportation of 1,500 inhabitants of Gio Linh and Cam Lo was the next phase of the program.*

*IT is known that mass deportation has been part, and a strategic measure, of rural pacification, designed to destroy the bases of the revolution, pen up the population into concentration camps, stamp out any revolutionary desire and secure more manpower for US Vietnamization strategy. Obviously, mass deportation is a monstrosity. Bombs, shells, toxic chemicals, continuous sweeps, terroristic operations have been resorted to, driving away the farmers from their paddy-fields and ancestral tombs. Leaving behind the land allotted them by the revolution, looted of all their property, they have to live on poor ration of rice, plagued by hunger and diseases.*

*On the other hand, by the current mass relocation, Nixon-Thieu plot to turn Northern Quang Tri into a no man's land, a free-fire zone under the furtherance of their "prevention from afar" strategy, thus warding off the blows from the South Viet Nam PLAF. But can they succeed in their relocation scheme? It only exposes the dire straits they are being in. To "whiten" each village, each district, each province and even several provinces, is mere pipe-dream. The "McNamara electronic fence," set up previously in this area, could not save them from annihilation strikes at Highway 9 - Khe Sanh, Dong Ha, Cua Viet... Rural pacification program, with zones confining scores of thousands of people in Quan Ngang, Tan Tuong..., could not uproot the bases of the people's revolution in that region. Meanwhile, guerilla warfare and political drives keep growing in strength, even in concentration camps dubbed "new-life hamlets," and in the very district and provincial towns under enemy control. US-Saigon strongholds such as Fuller base camp, Con Tien, Doc Mieu, Cua Viet, Bai Son, Ho Khe, Sa Muu... came under repeated attacks. The local hireling administration at all levels keeps tottering.*

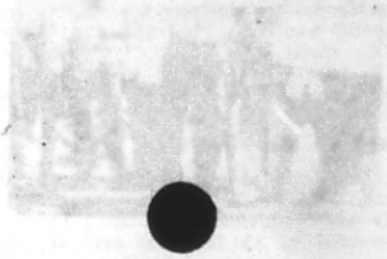
*THEIR previous plans' bankruptcy was ominous of the inevitable failure of their current mass deportation which brutally treads upon the traditional love of our farmers for their native lands and ancestors' tombs. The enormity of such a move is arousing untold hatred among our people and shockingly offends human conscience.*

*Saigon papers have not ceased carrying articles censuring that US plan responsible for the distress and the lives of millions of our countrymen. Buddhist circles, mass organizations, students have condemned the US - Saigon mass deportation plan to "turn the whole central part of Viet Nam into a free-fire zone so as to prolong the war of extermination."*

*An unyielding resistance in every possible form has been put up by the inhabitants of Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Da Nang to that criminal project. The enemy has this to say, as reported by AFP on January 8,1972: these stubborn nationalistic-minded people engaged in frequent struggles, as proved by anti-US and anti-government demonstrations, are fiercely opposing that plan, even when they are transferred to new areas.*

*Thus, with their mass deportation scheme, Nixon and Thieu are sure to reap nothing, expect failure and more shame for their monstrous crime which is fanning up the fire of hatred and wrath among the South Viet Nam rural population. That fire will reduce to ashes any adventurous plan of the US and its hirelings.*

SOUTH VIET NAM



Plan of attacks discussed and released from this underground CP

# NORTH QUANG TRI PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED BY US-SAIGON

# The PRG Denounces...

*On January 18 the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued a statement on the US-Thieu new criminal scheme and act of forcibly moving of people from the northernmost provinces in South Viet Nam to the southernmost region.*

*The statement reads in full as follows:*

FIRM measures would be taken against the people in the five northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam to put into effect the "resettlement" plan, it was bluntly declared in recent days by US-Saigon authorities in South Viet Nam.

In Quang Tri province alone, puppet provincial governor admitted, 273 families of 1,363 people had been forcibly flown by the US to the southernmost provinces of Trung Bo and to Nam Bo.

In the areas of Lang Co (Thua Thien province), and Hoa Khanh (Hoa Vang district, Quang Nam province), at the village of Xuyen Quang and the chief town of Nam Phuoc (Quang Da province) house-to-house searches were made by police to round up people at gunpoint for "classes on the migration policy." At the villages of Cam Ha, Cam An and Cam Kim in the suburbs of Hoi An (Quang Nam province), the police broke into each house, collected identity cards, ordered the people to fill "applications for resettlement" and made plans to have airplanes remove them in the days to come.

It was confirmed recently by US and other Western sources that a contract was signed with "Pan America" for the transportation of DPs with the assistance of the CIA. US-Saigon authorities declared that after Tet * 1,500 people would emplane each time.

It is to be recalled that on Oct. 25, 1971 the Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and their Agents' War Crimes in South Viet Nam had issued a communiqué exposing this crime before world opinion and calling on the world peoples, international bodies and political activists to stay in time the bloody hands of the US imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Nam.

Several US big newspapers such as the *Globe and Mail*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* have carried articles pointing out that under the plan, the US-Thieu were compelling millions of Vietnamese to leave their native places for ratholes. This is an unprecedentedly monstrous crime in Viet Nam's history, said one of those articles.

SINCE Nixon came to office, in order to subdue the South Vietnamese people, the US-puppets have tried their hardest to carry out their "pacification" program with extremely brutal and perfidious measures, thus piling up heinous crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

Recently, the Nixon administration has intensively put into practice their odious scheme of relocating millions of people living in the northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam into disguised concentration camps in the southernmost provinces of South Viet Nam. In the past few months US aircraft including B.52 strategic bombers and artillery carried out round-the-clock bombing and shelling on the said areas, committing heinous crimes against the population. At the same time, puppet troops and combat police compelled hundreds of thousands of people in Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts, Quang Tri province (south of the DMZ) to leave their fields, orchards, ancestors' tombs and native places to go and live a miserable life in concentration camps, thousands of kilometres away. The US-puppets are also intensively applying this scheme against the people in many areas in Thua Thien, Quang Da and Quang Nam provinces.

These extremely perfidious scheme and ruthless act of the US aggressors and the Thieu clique are aimed at warding off their complete failure in the "Vietnamization of the war" strategy and turning the provinces south of the DMZ into no-man's-lands in order to put into effect their policy of extermination and perpetuating the division of Viet Nam. This is a new and intolerable crime of the US-Thieu administration aimed at driving the people to misery, disrupting their age-old way of living, increasing coercion and repression and sowing division among the people of different regions in the country.

The crime committed by Nixon and Nguyen Van Thieu is even more heinous than that committed by the Hitlerite fascists which has been condemned by the whole mankind.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam vehemently condemns and sternly denounces before public opinion in the country and the world the Nixon and Nguyen Van Thieu administrations' new criminal act and scheme.

No brutal war manoeuvres taken by the US-Thieu clique can save them from total defeat. Giving full play to their victorious and strong position and their initiative of action, the South Vietnamese people are determined to completely foil the extremely savage US-Thieu "pacification" program.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is convinced that the peoples and governments of peace- and justice-loving countries and progressive forces in the world, including progressive Americans will condemn in time the US-Thieu criminal act and scheme and together with the Vietnamese people take effective measures to stay their bloody hands.

* *The New Year's Day of Lunar Calendar.*

# in the cities

o Workers at the "Eagle" Battery Enterprise denounced their bosses' joining hands with Thieu's men in refusing to meet their legitimate demands. The Saigon Labour Service had been resorting to all harassing and divisive manoeuvres. On December 30, all the protesters were arrested and detained at the Service and stripped of their belongings.

o The Thu Duc prison authorities refused on December 30 to let a deputation from the *Movement for Women's Right to Live* visit Madame Ngo Ba Thanh, the Movement's Chairman, and Woman Professor Tran Thi Lan.

The visitors castigated Thieu's agents for ill-treating and manhandling Madame Thanh all through the 3 months of her detention. As a result, her health was deteriorating. No medical attention had been given to her.

o The daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News) reported on January 1, 1972 that "though the Federation of Saigon Pressmen have on many occasions protested against Thieu's hirelings' brutalities against newspapermen during their work, another journalist was assaulted while he was carrying out his trade on Christmas eve.

The Federation insisted that such violations of the freedom of the press people to perform their duties be put to an end.

o The organizations of Pharmacists, Physicians, Dentists and Midwives have issued a joint communiqué pointing out that Thieu's new economic and financial measures helped send soaring the prices of drugs and medical instruments. The people's health and life were seriousiy threatened because the patients could hardly afford medicines. The communiqué demanded that the Thieu clique lower the drugs' costs.

o The Thieu "Autumn economic measures" and devaluation of the Saigon piastre have triggered a spiralling of the prices of commodities and as a result a rash of cases of robbery and mugging.

In Saigon, these were rampant and took place even under the police's noses. Significantly, almost all the offenders wore Saigon army uniforms and drove army vehicles.

o In Hoa Khanh (Quang Nam province), pirates armed with machine-guns broke into a hospital for children, tied up all its doctors and nurses and confined them in a ward and walked away with all the medical implements and machines and drugs.

o In Kien Tuong province police informers supplied false intelligence against a number of people, then had them arrested and compelled their relatives to pay ransoms from 50,000 to 60,000 piastres (Saigon currency).

Public opinion in Saigon held that robbery and mugging were aftermaths of the Americanized society (the Thieu regime) and had been stepped up by Thieu's "Autumn economic measures." Many segments of the people called for measures

to check such social evils which would get out of control as the traditional Tet festival was drawing near.

o The Thieu administration confiscated in December 1971 159 dailies' issues. The paper *Dien Tin* (Express) owned by opposition MP Hong Son Dong had all its issues of the month seized.

In the first ten days of January 1972, 49 papers were hit. The *Dien Tin* (Express) and *Tin Sang* (Morning News) had all their 10 issues seized. On she New Year's Day alone, 5 dailies and 4 weeklies were suppressed and threatened with prosecution.

# US-Saigon Crimes Against South Viet Nam Town People

*THE Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and Their Agents' War Crimes* in South Viet Nam made public in late December 1971 a document on the US imperialists' crimes during 3 years of "Vietnamization" in the cities and areas still under their control in South Viet Nam.

### Arrest and detention

According to the document, since February 5, 1969, along with vilification and threats, the US-Thieu clique has arrested and sentenced series of town people having a peaceful and neutral tendency, opposing the US-aggressive war and demanding US troops pullout from South Viet Nam. Among them were Buddhist Bonze Thich Thien Minh, Deputy-Head of the Hoa Dao Institute (15 years' imprisonment); Huynh Tan Mam, President of the *General Association of Students*; Pham Van Nhon, Chief-Editor of *Viet Nam Moi* (New Viet Nam); Nguyen Lau, Chief-Editor of *Saigon Daily News*; Catholic Priests Chau Tin and Truong Ba Can, and 30 intellectuals of the "Sponsoring Committee for the Founding of the Progressive National Forces."...

Almost all the demonstrations, meetings and teach-ins for peace and democratic freedoms held by intellectuals, students and other sections of the urban population were dealt with gunfire, truncheons, tear gas and rockets. The Saigon students' march against forcible military training of students was repressed with rockets and gas grenades fired from US-manned helicopters, with scores of paraders wounded. On the night of January 2, 1971, some 2,500 Saigon wicked police agents, under an American adviser's direct command, hurled hand-grenades and opened fire at the Minh Mang Campus, seriously injuring 30 students. On September 18, 19, 21, 25, 27 and 29, 1971, the US-Thieu clique hurled waves of police agents riding on hundreds of vehicles fitted with machine-guns and grenade-throwers to repress demonstrations against the "Lower House" and "presidential" elections, causing serious injuries to several students. The US-Thieu hirelings once attacked the Minh Mang Campus with machine-guns, rockets and hand-grenades while the students were asleep. Then the attackers used truncheons, gun-butts and bayonets against them, wounding hundreds of them, and abducted 400 others.

In the same period, Thieu's police agents cracked down on the students in the Saigon Scientific College area, injuring some 20 of them. They also threw grenades containing CS gas into an anti-election march of workers and students. Saigon thugs also encircled Phu Nhuan Market, wounded 2 students with gun-shots and marched away 26 others. Several market-goers received serious wounds from grenade splinters. Among the detainees, a student, Le Hoang Thao, was submitted to the bastinado torture by hammer for 7 days on end; Huynh Tan Mam was hit in his head and chest and Madame Ngo Ba Thanh was inflicted savage torture.

### Repression of the press

Saigon papers were on over 40 occasions seized, closed down or fined in 1969, 230 occasions in 1970 and 600 occasions in 1971. On some days, from 10 to 15 papers were confiscated, and many chief-editors brought to trial. In February and March 1971, the Thieu clique seized or fined nearly 100 papers. In September (before the "presidential" elections) and in October and November, 1971 (after the same elections), Saigon papers were 355 times confiscated, 6 others fined and 2 chief-editors emprisoned; between March and November 1971, the daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News) was over 200 times seized or fined, and was confiscated 51 times in October and November alone; another daily, *Lap Truong* (Stand), had 51 among the 60 issues in June and July 1971 confiscated, and 184 issues seized in the whole of the same year.

### Round-ups and house searches

In implementation of their plan of "sweeping away the Viet Cong infrastructure" in the cities, the US-Thieu clique had conducted since 1969 in Saigon alone 7,000 house searches. On the night of January 20, 1969, over 9,000 people were marched off. In districts 7 and 8, the raids were conducted by 9,000 "popular defence forces" men under US command, and over 4,000 people in Binh Chanh district were arrested. In 1970, the Thieu clique searched and detained 280,750 people. In Can Tho, the number of victims from Thieu's repressive measure rose to 7,850.

In the first 9 months of 1971, over 10,000 Saigonese were illegally arrested and savagely brutalized, among them Madame Ngo Ba Thanh, President of the *Movement for Women's Right to Live*; Vo Nhu Lanh, President of the Van Hanh Students' General Union; Nguyen Xuan Lap, Head of the Buddhist Students' Group; Tang Quang Tuyen, Head of the Buddhist Students' Press Group, and Professor Tran Tuan Nham.

### Higher taxes, greater war expenditures

In execution of their "Vietnamization," the Saigon administration has been seeking all means to exploit and grab money from the people of all walks of life in the cities and occupied areas. According to statistics (far below reality) made public by the Saigon authorities, in 1969, the first year of "Vietnamization," their total budget was 145 billion piastres (Saigon currency) or 44 billion more than in 1968, of which 117 billion for military spending and political repression. The 1970 figure was 197 billion (52 billion more than in 1969) and 164 billion. On January 20, 1971, Thieu announced that the budget for 1971 was first 235 billion and then raised to 266 billion (an increase of 69 billion over 1970), of which 190 billion would be earmarked for war and repressive ends.

All these spendings for the realization of such a bloody war plan came from the money extorted from the people through heavier taxation, such as 13 extra billion from customs duties, 15 billion from capitation, from austerity taxes on 1,500 kinds of goods and from many other taxes. In June 1970, Thieu rammed through the "National Assembly" a bill on customs taxes on imported goods to get 100 more billion to fill the 1971 budgetary gap. With the increase of all kinds of taxes..., they squeezed from the town people an extra of 131.5 billion piastres.

# *Terror Cannot Ward Off US and Thieu Isolation and Failure*

AFTER the "presidential election," Thieu has stepped up repressive measures against the opposition parties and various strata of the urban population. Together with the enforcement of a retaliatory draft law against hostile MPs, he has arrested hundreds of students and pupils, Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh and Mrs Tran Thi Lan—a teacher—respectively President and Secretary General of the *Movement for Women's Right to Live*.

On January 1, Huynh Tan Mam, Chairman of the Saigon Students' General Association was arrested in a arbitrary way while resuming his studies at the University. A wave of terror has also swept through the provincial capitals of Can Tho, Ben Tre, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Long An and other urban centres. Thieu's agents have infiltrated the ranks of militant mass organizations, using threat and bribery to split them.

Repression against the masses is never a sign of strength. It reveals on the contrary the decline of a most alienated regime. Conscious that any revolutionary struggle is accompanied with hard sacrifices, the South Vietnamese townsfolk are not intimidated by the new crimes of the Saigon authorities. Shoulder to shoulder with the people in the whole country, they will keep up their vigilance and strengthen their unity to foil the US "Vietnamization" strategy.

Along with uproarious mass actions against the "new economic measures," draft, repression..., the urban population have strongly denounced the new crimes. Let us mention the late December demonstrations against Nixon's new escalation of war on North Viet Nam, the last wave of protest of Saigon students against Huynh Tan Mam's arrest. In close co-ordination with the campaign launched jointly by many organizations, each organization, each social section has its own objectives, adequate and flexible forms of protest. The following examples are most typical: the 3-day halt against the newsprint price increase of 200 per cent; the demonstrations of the *Movement for Women's Right to Live*, the Committee for a Better Penitentiary Regime... for the immediate release of Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, woman professor Tran Thi Lan and students illegally arrested and savagely tortured; the students and pupils' "burn US vehicles, punish GIs" drive which resulted in 10 US cars reduced to ashes in Saigon only in the first day...

It is clear that fire and sword cannot shake the determination of the South Vietnamese urban population to achieve national independence, peace and a decent life. Violence and cruelty can but exasperate their hatred and harden their resolve to defeat US imperialism and overthrow Thieu.

**AI THI**

*à la nixon*

## Ah! These Damned Conquerors!

*THREE times, Khoubilai dashed off in the vain annexation of Viet Nam. The third time, his son Togan returned alone to the fold, his troops being sent to the bottom in the Bach Dang great naval battle. Khoubilai's best generals got acquainted with the damp straw of medieval dark cells.*

*The Asiatic potentate ran mad with fury.*

*— Surrender! Surrender! he mumbled,*

*As nothing came out, he altered his claim:*

*— My prisoners! At least my prisoners, or I'll crush you!*

*Bark the dog might, the caravan went its way.*

*History being a repetition, the same thing happens again in Viet Nam. Nixon, C-in-C of the US Army, begins with claiming the capitulation of the Vietnamese, then sets about to cry out:*

*— My prisoners! My prisoners! or I'll crush you!*

*The Vietnamese are content with re-reading their history.*

**CHÔNG TRE**

1971

# CENTRAL TRUNG BO

## — Almost all US-Saigon bases attacked

## — Over 85,000 enemy wiped out

*Covering the charge of their mates*

IN their widespread attacks in all the three strategic zones—the mountain area, the plains and the cities—the liberation fighters defeated almost all regiment-and brigade-sized operations of US, Saigon and satellite troops against the mountain areas from Quang Da and Quang Nam southward to Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces. Meanwhile, they launched surprise assaults on enemy military complexes in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai, wiping out whole main-force battalions of the enemy.

They also foiled the enemy's "clearing" operations, wiping out thousands of US, puppet and satellite troops and heavily decimating many companies and platoons of the US and Saigon regular troops.

The PLAF also launched repeated and big attacks against the enemy in various provinces and district capitals and their surroundings, knocking out thousands of enemy troops, razing many positions on the town fringes, neatly wiping out or decimating many US, Saigon and satellite platoons.

On the anti-"pacification" front, the guerilla and regional forces in the key rural areas dealt repeated and heavy blows at the rural administrative bodies of the puppets, punishing many cruel agents and persuading thousands of members of the enemy coercive machine to desert, revolt or take protest actions. Along with the military activities, the guerillas also helped the farmers to demolish the enemy's coercive machine in various concentration camps and "strategic hamlets," successfully prevented enemy's terror raids, draft and "upgrading" of the paramilitary forces, and provided effective support for the political movement in the towns for democratic rights and economic interests.

The PLAF in Central Trung Bo last year also accurately struck at enemy headquarters, logistic centres, airfields and important communication lines. The airfield headquarters and big American logistic compounds in Da Nang, Chu Lai, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh, Vung Ro, etc., were targets of PLAF assaults as were the division and regiment HQ of US, puppet and satellite troops. During their assault on the Saigon officers' training centre in Lam Son (Khanh Hoa province), the liberation fighters wiped out 500 puppet cadets and officers.

Many strategic roads like Highways 1 and 19 and railways and provincial routes in the plains and mountain areas were ambushed or cut off again and again.

All told, according to initial statistics in 1971, the armed forces and people in Central Trung Bo wiped out nearly **85,400** enemy including **11,454** *American and Pak Jung Hi troops*. In terms of units, they neatly wiped out **9** battalions, 1 "civil guard" unit, **70** companies, **340** platoons, 144 "pacification" groups and 11 "pacification" teams. They heavily decimated 4 regiments, 11 battalions, 70 companies, 2 armour columns, and razed or seriously damaged enemy installations in five district capitals and military sub-sectors and 5 artillery sites.

Besides, the PLAF smashed over **3,200** military vehicles, **231** cannon and mortars, **304** logistic depots, set ablaze or exploded nearly **16,000** tons of bombs and shells and other military equipment and over **80** million litres of gasoline.

The enemy losses included **656** aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground, nearly **3,929** firearms and a big quantity of ammunition and military apparatus captured.

# Nixon's bombings of North Viet Nam

## condemned by Saigon public opinion

US air raids on North Viet Nam, particularly on densely populated areas, hospitals and schools in Thanh Hoa and Quang Binh provinces have aroused widespread and strong indignation in South Viet Nam cities.

Over the past days, many Saigon mass organizations, "MPs" and papers have flayed Nixon's new crimes and demanded an end to the bombing while predicting the inevitable failure of "Vietnamization."

On January 1, 1972, 12 mass organizations (People's Front for Peace, Movement for Women's Right to Live, 36 Saigon Market Trade-Union, Movement for the People's Right to Self-Determination, Detainees' Mothers' Association, Private Teachers' Trade-Union, Movement for Economic Independence, Students' General Associations of Saigon and Van Hanh Buddhist, Students' and Pupils' Committee for Democracy and Peace, Students' and Pupils' Committee for the Right to Live published a joint communiqué against the bellicose and inhuman actions of Nixon. It urgently called on public opinion — at home and abroad — to militate for the end of the war of aggression, withdrawal of GIs and settlement of the Viet Nam problem by the Vietnamese people.

On December 28, 1971, the Saigon Students' General Association scored US bombings of North Viet Nam in a statement urging all students in South Viet Nam to struggle shoulder to shoulder with other urban people and foil the next US schemes.

On December 31, 1971 and January 2, 1972, the Secretary of the Buddhist Clergy Institute and the Head of the Hoa Dao Institute of the Saigon Buddhist Association told journalists that the USA was committing new crimes against the North Vietnamese people and Nixon had to use high-sounding phrases to camouflage them. The Vietnamese people, they stressed, are determined to resist violence as they did in their former resistance to French colonialism.

In their December 28, 30, and 31 issues such Saigon papers as *Tin Sang*, *Dan Chu Moi*... pooh-poohed Nixon's quibbles on the necessity of bombing North Viet Nam. According to *Tin Sang*, "whatever arguments the US administration may put forward, the bombing of North Viet Nam betrayed their perplexity in face of the failure of Nixon's doctrine." After proving that Nixon used the wolf's or the gangster's language when demanding the release of US pilots, the *Tin Sang* concluded: "No verdict reveals more clearly the cynicism of US propaganda on the Viet Nam war than Long Binh GIs' Christmas slogan: "Viet Nam — a Bob Hope's stun.'" *Dan Chu Moi* wrote that by ordering renewed large-scale bombings of North Viet Nam, Nixon "multiplied the number of cells reserved for US pilots and fastened handcuffs round their wrists." Dismissing the claim that Nixon had done his best to secure the freedom of US pilots captured in North Viet Nam, the paper commented: "That's a naked lie, a lie that can deceive nobody except Nixon himself."

# in our liberated zones

• On December 31, 1971 Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat sent a congratulatory message to the DRVN Party, National Assembly and Government leaders.

The message read in part: "Abiding by their pledge 'to make every sacrifice for the Fatherland to survive', the South Vietnamese people, standing firm in the front line of the nation, will fight stubbornly until the US imperialists and their henchmen are defeated, the South liberated, the North made secure and the country peacefully reunified in order to deserve the confidence, affection and dedication of their northern kith and kin."

On the same day, the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee sent to the Viet Nam Fatherland Front CC and DRVN Government a message warmly hailing the North Vietnamese people and their armed forces for having downed many US war planes coming to commit crimes in the DRVN.

In a statement released on December 30, 1971 on the US new military adventure against the DRVN, the CC of the South Viet Nam NFL strongly censured US using anti-personnel bombs against women, children and patients. The statement made clear that the South Vietnamese people and armed forces would keep up the fighting until "the US quit and the quislings topple" to be worthy of the trust of the North great rear base.

• On the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao Patriotic Front, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat addressed congratulations to Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the CC of the Lao Patriotic Front, and the brother Lao people.

The South Vietnamese leaders also conveyed warm congratulations on the recent success of paramount strategic significance won by the Lao people in the Plain of Jars - Muong Suoi area.

• Commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the nationwide action of the school youth, and the 11th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union and South Viet Nam Pupils' Organization, the Central Committees of these two organizations launched among the school youth in South Viet Nam urban centres a widespread campaign to promote their dauntless spirit shown through various periods and particularly in the recent stirring movement.

• On January 3, 1972 the Liberation Women's Union, the Liberation Youth Union, the Viet Nam Young Revolutionary People's Organization, the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union and the South Viet Nam Liberation Pupils' Organization made public a statement scoring the US imperialists' air raids on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and voicing their resolve to get the better of the American aggressors.

• Commemorating the 11th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam decided to award:

*Brass Wall Medal, First Class*, to the provinces of Binh Dinh and Quang Da, the city of Da Nang and the U Minh front (Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces);

*Brass Wall Medal, Second Class*, to the provinces of Quang Ngai, Phu Yen, Kontum, Cai Nuoc district (Ca Mau province);

*Brass Wall Medal, Third Class*, to the provinces of Gia Lai and West Quang Da, D. district (Quang Da), Q. district (Quang Nam), P. district and Q.N. unit (Binh Dinh), X. district (north of Kontum) and Cang Long district (Tra Vinh province);

*Liberation Medal, First Class*, to 2 districts and 9 villages in Ca Mau province, Cau Ke district, 2 townlets (Cang Long and Tieu Can) and 15 villages in Tra Vinh province; 3 districts (Vung Liem, Tra On, Tam Binh), 2 townlets (Vung Liem and Tra On) and 24 districts and villages; the districts of Ke Sach, Chau Thanh A and Long My, and 5 villages in Can Tho province; 2 districts (An Bien and Vinh Thuan) and 5 villages in Rach Gia province; Phuoc Long district; Nga Nam townlet and 8 villages in Soc Trang province;

*Liberation Medal, Second Class*, to Gia Rai district and 10 villages in Ca Mau province, 3 districts (Chau Thanh, Tra Cu, Cau Ngang), 2 townlets (Cau Ngang, Long Khanh) and 14 villages in Tra Vinh province; Binh Minh district, Cau Moi townlet, and 16 villages in Vinh Long province; 2 districts (Phung Hiep and Chau Thanh B), Vi Thanh town, 5 villages and X. Area in Can Tho province; Phu Quoc district and 8 villages in Rach Gia province; 3 districts (Thanh Tri, My Xuyen, Vinh Chau), My Tu townlet and 18 villages in Soc Trang province.

*Sending off their boy-friends to the PLAF*

# South Viet Nam
## the land, people and history

*Dawn in the Plain of Reeds*

# My Tho
## native place of heroine LE THI HONG GAM

A province of medium size in Central Nam Bo, 72 kilometres away from Saigon, My Tho borders in the north on Long An, in the south on Ben Tre across the Mekong River, in the east on the South China Sea and in the west on Kien Phong.

Under the French rule and during the nine-year war of resistance, My Tho had some 700,000 population; in the present struggle against US aggression its inhabitants number more than one million.

The Mekong River flows in the south from west to east, and its tributaries and canals crisscross the entire province. Through this network industrial goods, agricultural and forest products come in or go out, and My Tho is linked by boat with Saigon and West Nam Bo all the year round.

It is also the Mekong River which provides alluvium to My Tho and the whole south as well. So the soil is very fertile. Many kinds of fruits grow there. Besides paddy, coconut and fish galore, one can find such delicious fruit as orange, tangerine, grapefruit, avocado, milk apple, longane, lomchom, mangosteen, goyava....

My Tho paddies lie as far as the eye can see. In many places a *cong* (100 square metres) yields from 30 to 40 *gia* (from 600 to 800 kilogrammes) of paddy. Annual production of all varieties of grain reaches from 300 to 500,000 tons.

The most appreciated fruit, however, is the durian, a not very familiar and popular fruit in Asia. When it is ripe, it is sweet, nourishing and fragrant, hence its use for flavouring sweetmeats.

Moreover, it is a fishing centre teeming both with marine and river products. It is also the land of the lotus, a white carpet in the fields in blossoming time, a green ribbon along the canals or a green immensity on the swamps.

THIS attractive land not only abounds in paddy, fruit and fish, but—what is more important—has been the site of many military and cultural feats. Since 1784 people extolled the exploits of Nguyen Hue who wiped out 200,000 Siamese invaders at Rach Gam - Soai Mut, a tributary of the Mekong River.

Following in Nguyen Hue's steps, Thu Khoa Huan, Hoc Lac... were ardent patriots, versed in both military art and learning.

In the uprising for national independence, freedom and a decent life in 1940, My Tho boasted many patriots valiantly fighting against the French colonialists. Then throughout nine years of resistance war it also inscribed golden pages in the history of the nation, witnessed the invincible Battalion 307 which struck fear into the French colonialists' hearts.

In the protracted people's war against US aggression, My Tho recorded the first achievements: at Ap Bac, on January 2, 1963, the battalion named after "Hiron" supported by the local population foiled the "armoured-car and heliborne tactics," the first hit which heralded the bankruptcy of the US imperialists' special war.

The cause of our ancestors, the sacrifices of our elders have galvanized our generation in its victorious fight against the US aggressors. The bomb hurled by Nguyen Van Be and the signal deeds of Nguyen Van Dang, Le Quan Cong... have added lustre to the history of My Tho. This year, alone with only a rifle Le Thi Hong Gam achieved immortal fame before laying down her life. The feat of this 19-year-old girl, a native of Rach Gam, was the crystallization of fine virtues, the quintessence of Viet Nam's revolutionary heroism.

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISITS THE DRVN

AT the invitation of the Government of the DRVN, a Government economic delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Government led by Frantisek Hamouz, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Deputy-Premier of the Government of CSR paid a friendship visit to the DRVN.

During its stay in the DRVN, the CSR Government economic delegation was received by President Ton Duc Thang and Premier Pham Van Dong.

On behalf of the DRVN Government and the Vietnamese people, Premier Pham Van Dong expressed his sincere thanks to the Party, Government and people of the CSR for their precious support and assistance. He wished the fraternal people of the CSR still greater successes in the building of socialism under the leadership of the Government of CSR and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The delegation paid a visit to the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN and was warmly received by Mr Nguyen Phu Soai, its acting Head.

It visited a number of industrial enterprises, agricultural and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Hai Phong cities, Quang Ninh, Ninh Binh...

On the CSR's economic and military aid to Viet Nam for 1972, the CSR Government economic delegation held talks with its DRVN counterpart headed by Mr Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Vice-Premier of the DRVN Government.

On behalf of the CSR Government, Party and people Mr Frantisek Hamouz extended full support to the just resistance of the Vietnamese people against the US imperialist aggressors as well as to the proposals of the DRVN Government and the seven-point solution of the RSVN PRG. He condemned the criminal war conducted by the US in South Viet Nam, its armed intervention in Laos, its sabotage of Cambodia's neutrality, and its recent savage air raids against the DRVN and other Indochinese countries.

The CSR Government economic delegation reiterated the solidarity and assistance of the CSR Government to the DRVN and the entire Vietnamese people in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

On behalf of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Government and people of Viet Nam, Mr Le Thanh Nghi expressed his sincere thanks to the Czechoslovak Government, Party and people.

The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at the achievements recorded by the people of Czechoslovakia, and sincerely wish the latter still greater successes in building socialism, thus contributing to the safeguard of peace in Europe and the world...

The two delegations signed an agreement on the CSR's economic and military aid to Viet Nam, a protocol on economic and technical co-operation between the two countries, and an agreement on trade exchange and payments for 1972.

*To Minh Hoan (left), a brilliant marksman of the Viet Bac Political-Military School*

OUR GREAT REAR

# MILCH-COWS IN THE STEPPES

THE rapid changes in Moc Chau plateau fill everybody of us with joy for this northwestern part of our Fatherland. Day and night we hear the hum of engines on the tea-hills, in the steppes and in the shops. Electricity is helping boost cattle breeding and tilling, and its light has come into workers' homes, warming the once desolate Moc Chau. From underground springs, water is pumped up to production bases and living quarters... The state farm now counts thousands of oxen and cows, not including those moved to other farms. They came from various foreign strains who have got used to Vietnamese grass and calved in our country. A breed of milch-cows has been created (3,000 head) beside hundreds of half-breds. They live in roomy concrete-floored sheds provided with running water. All their food is processed by machines. Reared with a scientific method they get each 11 food-units a day. Three times a day they are milked by machine during three minutes. Some of them yield daily more than 40 kilograms of milk, which is delivered to the processing-shops of the farm.

Thousands of hectares are no longer under wild grass. Concrete pillars supporting a wire network and straight rows of eucalyptus divide the steppes into quarters for easier management. The grass is turned into a robust kind which can resist the western wind and frost, not to mention the treading of beasts and of tractors. Moc Chau plateau has, moreover, acclimatized pangola, medicago and other grasses. Many grasslands are being created which contain all nutrients required.

The farm staff and workers are seeing their dream of making this region a vast milch-cow rearing area of the North come true. Today Moc Chau plateau has become the productive centre of milk and dairy products, offers to passing travellers — cadres and armymen: and the local population its fresh milk, condensed milk, buttered biscuits and milk cakes..., its first products.

TRINH TUONG

*A still from "National Hero Tran Quoc Toan" Film*

# THE DRVN IN BRIEF

o The Hanoi Administrative Committee and Army Command of the Capital City held on January 12, 1972 the traditional "Volunteer to Die for the Fatherland to Live" Festival to mark the 25th anniversary of the merging of various armed forces defending the Capital City.

General Vo Nguyen Giap sent a letter extolling the tradition of indomitable and heroic struggle of the Hanoi army and people in the past over a quarter of a century.

o The Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee called in Hanoi a meeting in response to the "Week for International Solidarity with the Asian, African and Latin American Peoples."

Participants in the gathering passed a resolution greeting the tri-continental peoples' successes, expressing full and wholehearted backing for the movement for national liberation of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, and sincere thanks for the latter's support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against the US imperialists' aggression.

o In the ebullient emulation atmosphere of the first days of 1972, workers at the "March 8" Textile Complex turned out the last metres of the extra million metres of cloth for the Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper) cyclone victims.

In a ceremony on January 4, 1972, the management handed the contingent of cloth to the Special Representative of the RSVN in Hanoi.

o In response to the "100-Day Plan of Fulfilment of the Dike Mending" Campaign of Hanoi city, large numbers of Youth Union members and young people in various suburban and town districts of Hanoi were present at the dike construction sites of the Red River.

The Hanoi youth considered this campaign a major military deployment, and were resolved to achieve the highest labour productivity on the water conservancy front.

o Young workers of the geological drilling machines branch have been stirringly engaged in the "Spring of Victory over the US Campaign of Coal Prospecting."

All sections have undertaken to overfulfil the drilling plan assigned by the General Geology Department from 6 to 50 per cent. Some of them have decided to put in a volume of work 3 times bigger than scheduled.

o The construction of the Cam Son Hydro-Power Station (Ha Bac province) has just been completed. It will begin functioning in the first quarter of 1972. It is the first station of its kind designed and built by Vietnamese technicians and workers.

o In the early days of 1972, the construction yard of a textile combine in Vinh Phu province started operation.

The future mill will have a capacity 50 per cent bigger than that of the "March 8" Textile Complex. It will comprise yarn, weaving and dying sections. According to the design, the new plant's printing section will be able to print 8 colours at a time.

o The Hanoi Feature Film Studio has just completed the shooting of the following new films: *The Young Communist* (13 reels), *Day and Night at Parallel 17* depicting the struggle for national reunification, *The Luc Couple*, a film on the agricultural front, *After the Hurricane* reflecting the worker-peasant mutual affection, *Tran Quoc Toan Deploying Troops*, a historical theme, and *Without a Shelter* dealing with the people's security forces' activities against the US aggressors' sabotage designs.

# The third world in effervescence

**THAILAND.** : In 1971 the people's armed struggle developed and expanded to more than 170 districts in 38 provinces. The people's liberation army holding the initiative staged 700 attacks and thwarted all enemy "sweeps." They put out of action 1,700 enemy troops, shot down or destroyed on the ground 55 aircraft, 27 military vehicles, levelled off 40 police and "popular defence" posts and captured a big amount of ammunition.

Big progress was made in the political and economic effort against oppression and exploitation by the US imperialists and their henchmen: 320,000 peasants took part in various forms of action, more than 20,000 workers held 80 strikes for wage lifts and better working conditions.

**THE PHILIPPINES** : In 4 continuous days (from Dec. 18 to 22) guerilla forces laid ambushes on the reactionary army and police and assaulted the CPs of Marine Battalion No 5 and the task forces stationed in the provinces of Isabella, Camarin, Nueva Vicacaya, putting 48 enemy men out of action.

**PALESTINE** : In the second half of 1971, guerillas mounted a series of offensives against the Israeli aggressors, wiping out a large number of them, destroying 32 military vehicles, flattening 4 garrisons and burning down a number of posts.

In the last week of December they continually assailed enemy forces in Gollan Plateaux, Gaga and the Sinai peninsula, wiping out 36 of them, destroying 18 vehicles and razing to the ground 3 posts. On Dec, 20, they mined the railway linking Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and overturned several military trains, while setting afire a garrison and a military vehicle.

**MOZAMBIQUE**: From July to October 1971 the Liberation Army staged powerful onsets on Portuguese colonialists in Northern and Southern Mozambique, wiping out 250 of them, downing 2 aircraft, destroying 27 military vehicles, sending to the bottom 2 vessels, erasing 19 billets, and capturing a big haul of weapons. Most outstanding was the attack on 2 enemy companies stationed at Sipera on the night of Sept. 24, blotting out 19 out of 24 billets including one serving as signal centre, office and army club.

**PANAMA** : The Day of Victorious Struggle against US Imperialism (Dec. 12 1947) was marked by a students' rally at Panama University. The participants unanimously urged the dismantling of US bases in the canal zone and the restoration of Panama's rights in the zone. The Commander of Panaman defence forces declared that in case of US refusal to meet Panama's legitimate demands in the negotiations on a new agreement concerning the canal zone, the people would certainly resort to stronger measures.

**MEXICO** : As a result of a persevering fight for the defence of her national sovereignty and rights, Mexico has up to now succeeded in controlling 98 per cent of mine production. The Mexican government has issued a decree limiting foreign investments in key industries to 50 per cent at most. Other firm measures have been taken to protect Mexico's territorial waters and sea resources.

**THE CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY** attended by representatives of mass organizations from Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Chile approved the Lima Declaration and a number of resolutions, among them one protesting against US imperialists bringing pressure to bear on the Chilean government because of its progressive policy.

The Lima Declaration said *inter alea*: "We, men and women representing all social sections and political tendencies in Latin America, deem it an urgent task in our continent to liberate our states from the yoke of US imperialism, restore to our own peoples the basic resources of our lands now in the hands of foreign monopoly capital, and winning back our right to self-determination."

*South Vietnamese students under PRH's professors' guidance*

# Dunavaros' sympathy for Viet Nam

DUNAVAROS, built on the bank of the quiet Danube, is one of the most modern cities of Hungary. It means the new city of Danube in Magyar, and is proudly called by its people the City of Youth.

Two decades ago, it was but a swamp with only some dilapidated cottages and fishermen's huts. Now splendidly built by the skilful hands of fifty thousand young volunteers coming from all parts of Hungary amidst vast fields of maize, apple-trees and vineyard, Dunavaros boats many skyscrapers, large parks and the biggest iron and steel plant of Hungary (manned by ten thousand workers) which together with many other works, turns it into an industrial centre feverishly embarking on socialist construction.

Escorting us on our sightseeing tour to acquaint us with its rapid transformation, our Hungarian friends said: "We are proud of being the citizens of a city which is changing daily and hourly for the better." Like its citizens who selflessly built Dunavaros, we Vietnamese also feel attached to it. One of the reasons for our attachment is that the city has reserved for Viet Nam an inestimable sympathy in the form of a Club named after President Ho Chi Minh — a Club for the city youth' — a token not only of respect and veneration for our leader but also of the resolve of the Hungarian youth to follow Uncle Ho's example. Gurekis Sando, president of the Club and a friend of Viet Nam, told us that Viet Nam had been on the agenda of his organization. Every time he met us, he did not fail to report what his Club had done for Viet Nam and he spoke passionately of the demonstrations staged by Hungarian youths on Viet Nam festive days.

Visiting the Ho Chi Minh Club one evening after the sun had set on the Danube, we were shown by Gurekis Sando and some Hungarian girls very attractive in their Vietnamese tunics, the bronze statue of President Ho Chi Minh erected on the second anniversary of his death. The statue bore the inscription: "President Ho Chi Minh lives for ever!" We could still see at its foot many wreaths of colourful flowers. We were also shown the room where his portrait together with Vietnamese books and periodicals were on display. For these activities carried out enthusiastically and efficiently staged for the last few years, many members of the Ho Chi Minh Club have been awarded the *For the Sake of Peace* badge by the National Peace Council of Hungary.

Attracted by a menu of Vietnamese dishes advertised for over one week, many youths and workers, including those of the Ho Chi Minh Socialist Labour Team of the Iron and Steel Works, queued up in front of the Central Hotel at Dunavaros to taste the exotic foods.

It is in that way that Dunavaros has been engraved in the minds of the youths of our two countries.

**TRAN MINH TRIET**
*(Hungary)*

## CAMBODIA

# PNLAF sustained attacks

FOLLOWING up their dramatic foiling of Operation "Tchenla 2", the Cambodian People National Liberation Armed Forces continued to mount devastating attacks on enemy in Kompong Cham, Takeo, Kompong Chnang and Krek.

According to *AKI*, from December 19 to 23, 1971, they assaulted the adversary on Highway number 6 and in Kompong Cham province, putting out of action 200 Phnom Penh and Saigon soldiers, downing 3 helicopters and destroying 4 armoured vehicles.

In the last days of 1971, they repeatedly encircled and battered the enemy in Takeo and Kompong Chnang provinces, respectively South and North of Phnom Penh. 130 adverse men were wiped out and a big quantity of war materials seized.

As a result of successive PNLAF fierce offensives, the adversary had to decamp from several bases. According to Western sources, on January 11, they were forced out of Krek on Highway 7, a few kilometres from the Vietnamese borders—the 10th base abandoned by Saigon troops on the Cambodian territory so far.

Phnom Penh Brigade 22 in charge of defending Krek also had to abandon the base only 24 hours after the Saigon troops' withdrawal.

*AFP* reported on January 12 from Saigon that "the Khmerization of the control over Highway 7 as announced on January 11 in Saigon thus turned out a setback 24 hours later, the Phnom Penh army units who apparently were not strong enough to hold the posts in this region of plantations also had to retreat to South Viet Nam. They were blocked by an adverse division in the West, near Chup plantations, and had no other retreating routes."

# AAPSO Backs Indochinese Peoples' Fight

THE Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization recently held its 5th conference in Cairo, capital of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Participating in the assembly were 63 official delegations from the Organization member countries, 30 observers' delegations of international organizations and other countries including that of the Republic of South Viet Nam headed by Le Tham, Secretariat member of the RSVN Asian-African Solidarity Committee, and RSVN Ambassador to Syria.

In his opening speech on January 10, Mr Sadam Zayat, Secretary - General of the Egyptian Social Union Party, strongly condemned the US imperialists' crimes. He said: "Wherever there is aggression against a people, there is US manipulation in one way or another. Wherever there is a subversive plot, there is the hand of the US. Wherever there exists a danger to world peace, there is a threat posed by the US."

After 4 days' work, the gathering unanimously passed a joint statement and many resolutions including one on Indochina. The latter pointed out that the only solution to the Indochinese problem was the negotiation of a political settlement under whose terms the American troops would have to withdraw totally and unconditionally from Indochina and the US government to respect the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples' fundamental national rights.

On the Viet Nam issue, the resolution urged that the US government put a complete stop to aggression, end the "Vietnamization" program, and unconditionally pull out all the troops, advisers and military personnel, weapons and other war materials of the US and its allies, and unconditionally remove all US military bases in South Viet Nam, cease all sea and air as well as other military activities against both South and North Viet Nam.

The US must strictly respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, withhold its backing from the present warlike regime headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, with a view to paving the way for the establishment of a new administration favouring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy and ready for serious talks with the PRG of the RSVN on the setting up of a broad national union government in South Viet Nam.

These two points are closely connected to each other: To reach a settlement of the war and restore peace in Viet Nam, the Nixon administration must withdraw all the American troops and at the same time end its backing of the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling regime, a US tool of aggression.

The resolution called on the people of all the Asian and African countries and the American people, the freedom-peace- and justice-loving people throughout the world to thoroughly realize the seriousness of the present situation in Indochina, take all possible measures to check the US imperialists' criminal hands, forbid them to use the lives and wealth of the American and other peoples the world over in the prolongation of their aggressive war against the three Indochinese peoples.

# Nixon and His Inflationary Dollars

AS 1972 began, Mr Nixon described the year 1971 as a "fine" one.

Let's see how fine America's economy was in 1971 under the Nixon administration. As one still remembers, on entering the White House, Mr Nixon pledged to apply new economic measures. He went to the length of presenting a draft budget with a surplus. But right in his first fiscal year (1969-1970) the US budget showed a deficit of 2.9 *billion dollars*. The next year, the deficit jumped up to 23.2 *billion*; and it is going up even higher this year. So not only did the US budget yield no surplus, but in three years of Nixon's rule, it recorded a *total deficit of 54 billion dollars*. The US *News and World Report* was right in saying that this was the biggest budget deficit ever seen in the United States since the end of World War II.

The United States was a huge creditor after World War II, but it is now deeply in debt. In 1961, under Kennedy, the total amount of debts was 115 *billion dollars*. Ten years later, under Nixon, it rose to 405 *billion dollars*. Nevertheless, Mr Nixon was "very pleased" with the year 1971.

As for US gold reserves, in 1971 they were only 10 *billion dollars, hardly one-sixth of the volume of dollars in bank-notes*. 1971 found an embittered Nixon because he had been compelled to devaluate the US dollar. It witnessed the end of the long-standing hegemony of this currency in world finances. That Mr Nixon had to stomach this on entering an election year — as a British paper rightly remarked — is fully indicative of the decadence of US imperialism.

Mr Nixon thought he was able to save the US dollar by applying his new economic policy, but in the end the dollar had to be devaluated. He claimed that his new economic policy would help solve unemployment, but 6 *per cent* of all US work force was still jobless. He also said that he would put inflation under control, but the inflationary trend still continued. In the first six months of 1971, the amount of bank-notes issued was 12 per cent bigger than in the corresponding period of previous years. Primary necessities' prices soared to an all-time high.

We are living in the worst period of economic troubles since the 1920-30 economic crisis, Senator McGovern said commenting on the 1971 situation. Economic analysts agreed that in 1971 US economy was assailed by a host of diseases, the most dangerous one being the *imbalance between production and consumption*. The origin of this should be found in the fall of the purchasing power of the toiling people, while their real wages were being gnawed at by inflation. According to George Mitchell, the governor of the Federal Reserve Bank, consumers were evincing unusual signs of resistance in the purchase of new houses, refrigerators, cars, or in the planning of costly holidays, even in the buying of a new autumn suit.

Looking into the state of continual deficit of the US balance of payments, one should stress this point: the main cause of deficit was none other than the *uninterrupted increase of military aids and expenditures, all meant to serve the aggressive and expansionist policy of US imperialism*. The military budget submitted by Nixon to Congress in FY 1971-72 was still over 70 *billion dollars*. After 10 years of a costly war in Viet Nam and Indochina, the reactionary policy pursued by Nixon now in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and other places is still leading the US economy into further recession and crisis, to more difficulties in the people's life and more troubles in society.

A group of economists specialized in US foreign economic policy led by Ralph Strans came to this conclusion in their report: The US economic position in the world has been eroded in its confrontation with the European Common Market and Japan.

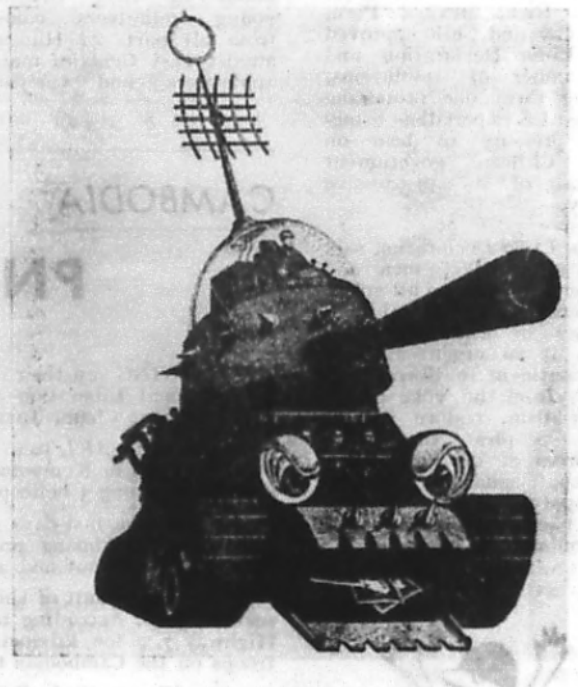
The British *New Statesman* also commented that the Americans should bear in mind that although the collapse of the US Empire was not as dramatic as that of the British Empire, it nonetheless has taken place.

Such is the plight of the US economy, but this does not prevent Mr Nixon from handing to US pressmen a 34 - page report summing up his achievements in 1971, in which he declared to be "very pleased" with what he had done in 1971. And 1972 will be a "very fine" year, he forecast.

The American people, however, were not so pleased with 1971 as was their president. When acceding to the Presidency, Kennedy admitted that there were in the United States 25 *million* poor needing relief. In 1971 under Nixon 30 *million Americans were actually underfed and 15 million more were threatened by malnutrition*—and this latter figure was daily increasing, as *Time* magazine estimated in its July 1971 issue.

Such was US society and economy in 1971 under Mr Nixon. Yet he spoke with pride of his record, rated it "fine" and was "very pleased" with it. One may ask him, "Aren't you going to put in circulation not only depreciated dollars, but forged ones as well?"

**KHA DINH**



*Money-munching tank*

## IN BRIEF

• At a recent interview with the RSVN Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic, Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers Willi Stoph reaffirmed GDR solidarity with, and assistance to, the Vietnamese people's heroic struggle, and their resolute support for the political solution contained in the RSVN PRG 7-point peace initiative.

• The Conference of the Central Committee of the Inter - African Youth Movement, held in Bujumbura (Burundi) from December 16 to 18, 1971, adopted a general political resolution voicing the African youth's full support for the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples' resistance against US aggression.

• The 8th Congress of the "Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico" has approved two statements on Indochina and Viet Nam. The one on Indochina pointed out that "the Indochinese peoples' heroic example has had an incomparable value for the revolutionaries and the peoples who are confronting imperialism the world over."

The one on Viet Nam "strongly condemned the US imperialist aggression in Viet Nam and the American troops' continued terror against the South Vietnamese."

• In a message of greeting on January 10, 1972, to the 5th Conference of the Asian-African People's Organization held in Cairo, President Anwar Sadat made clear the Egyptian Arab Republic Government and people's full support for the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples in their courageous confrontation with US imperialism.

• The British Committee of Medical Aid to Viet Nam has organized a drive against continued US aggressive war and fresh crimes against the Vietnamese, and for medicines and medical appliances for South Viet Nam.

A total of 3,000 sterlings has been collected by the Committee for Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION